Stanford Africa Business Forum

Establishing Africa's place in the future: New approaches to driving growth

April 20, 2019

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Speaker Briefing Packet

MISSION

The Stanford Africa Business Forum aims to be the leading networking platform for professionals, students, and academics interested in business and innovation in Africa. Our goal is to stimulate thought and discussions through engaging keynotes, interactive panels and workshops.

STANFORD AFRICA BUSINESS FORUM

The Stanford Africa Business Forum (SABF) is a university-wide initiative at Stanford University, founded in 2007 with the aim of creating a platform for business leaders, policy makers, faculty, and students with a common interest in Africa, to exchange ideas and build relationships. It is a collaborative effort between the Stanford Institute for Innovation in Developing Economies (SEED), Stanford Africa Business Club (ABC), Stanford African Students' Association (SASA), and Center for African Studies (CAS).

The SABF is the premier networking opportunity for African business interests for the Stanford and larger Bay Area community. It has consistently attracted over 400 attendees in past years. Throughout its 10 years in session, the forum has brought notable speakers and panelists to the Stanford campus. These guests have span all aspects of business, government and nonprofit organizations such as the International Finance Corporation, Omidyar, African Export-Import Bank, Simba Group, IBM Africa, Equity Bank, Rwanda Development Board, the African Leadership Academy, the Nigerian Federal Government and others.

THEME

The theme for the conference is "**Establishing Africa's Place in the Future: New Approaches to Driving Growth**".

THEME EXPLAINED

The Africa Business Club is excited to present the 12th Annual Stanford Africa Business Forum, This year's forum will invite all of us to think beyond the challenges that are affecting people living on the African continent. For so long we have been fully engrossed, and rightly so, in trying to solve localized challenges. While we must continue doing this, for us to truly reach our potential, we must think global. How can Africans contribute to solving the world's toughest challenges? For example, what do we need to do in order to be at the center of the fourth industrial revolution? What must we do to help prevent a food shortage crisis as the world's population continues to grow? What opportunities exist over the next decade for the continent to drive global growth? These pertinent questions will be addressed at the 2019 Stanford Africa Business Forum..

AGENDA (DRAFT)

8:00 am to 8:45 am	**Registration and Reception** Continental Breakfast
8:45 am to 9:00 am	**Welcome Address (Co-Chairs)**
9:00 am to 9:15 am	Dean's Welcome – Dean, Stanford Graduate School of Business
9:15 am to 9:25 am	Seed Video
9:30 am to 10:10 am	**Opening Keynote:** *Alain Ebobisse, CEO of Africa50; Moderated by Katherine Casey, Professor - Stanford Graduate School of Business*
10:20 am to 11:30am	**Panel Session 1** Food and Agriculture Infrastructure & Mobility Education Entrepreneurship Emerging Technologies
11:30 pm to 1:00 pm	**Morning Workshops** *Pitch Showcase* *Design Workshop* *Ted Style Talks: Claude Grunitzky, Chairman True Africa and Amy Jadesimi, Managing Director, LADOL*
1:00 pm to 1:50 pm	**Lunch**
2:00 pm to 3:10 pm	**Ministerial Fireside Chat:** *Cina Lawson, Paula Ingabire and Dr. Ing Getahun (Ministers of Technology Togo, Rwanda and Ethiopia respectively), Anna Prouse, Head of Government Relations, GoogleX (Loon)*
3:10 pm to 4:15 pm	**Panel Session 2** Fintech Investing Arts, Media and Entertainment Energy Youth, Employment and Manufacturing
4:15 pm to 4:30 pm	**Coffee and Snack Break**
4:30 pm to 5:30 pm	**Final Keynote:** *Acha Leke, Chairman McKinsey Africa & Founder African Leadership Academy*
5:30 pm to 6:00 pm	**Closing Remarks**
6:00 pm to 7:00 pm	**Career Fair**
6:00 pm to 8:00 pm	**Networking Reception**
8:00pm to 11:00pm	**Afterparty**

PANEL FORMAT/AGENDA

The session will begin with 1-2 minutes presentation by each panelist (company and their role), followed by a 30 minutes discussion led by a moderator. We will then open to Q&A from the audience. Panelists would be invited to give closing remarks at the end.

3 minutes	**Introduction of the moderator by Panel Lead**
3 minutes	**Introduction of the panel topic by the Moderator**
8 minutes	**Introduction by each panelists (1-2 min each on company history, role in Africa etc.)**
40 minutes	**Panel Discussion led by the Moderator**
30 minutes	**Q&A by the audience**
4 minutes	**Closing Remarks by Moderator/Panelists**
2 minutes	**Closing Announcements by Panel Lead**

EDUCATION

Innovations in Education from Classroom to Career

With nearly half of Africa's population under the age of 15, and the youth population projected to grow significantly over the coming decades, expanding the reach of quality education is paramount for Africa's economic and social prosperity. But what does effective education innovation in Africa look like? Topics discussed will include technical skills development and upskilling, leadership development, edtech innovation, and bridging gender disparities in educational outcomes.

Dimensions to be addressed:

- Is there a tension between highly-technical skills-based and employment-driven training on the one hand, and critical thinking, leadership development education on the other?
- How do existing curricula serve the needs of African students, and how should they be changed? What efforts should be made to decolonize the historical narratives shared at schools?

PANELISTS

Education

Moderator: Anar Simpson
Growth Ambassador - Technovation

Ryan Benitez
CEO , Meto

Ali Sweet
Chief Talent Officer, Nova Pioneer

Education Panelists

Anar Simpson
Growth Ambassador - Technovation

Hon. Paula Ingabire is a Rwandan technology enthusiast and politician, who has served as the Minister of Information and communications technology and Innovation, in the Cabinet of Rwanda, since 18 October 2018. Before her current appointment, she was the Head of the Kigali Innovation City initiative. Prior to that, she held the position of Head of ICT at the Rwanda Development Board. She is one of the youngest female Ministers in Africa

Ali Sweet
Chief Talent Officer, Nova Pioneer

Dr. Getahun is the Minister of Science and Technology in Ethiopia, a position he has held since November 2016. He began his political career as Director General of the Ministry of Science and Technology. From 2010 to 2012 he was Director of the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and from 2012 to 2014 he was Deputy Scientific Director of the Addis Ababa Institute of Technology (AAiT).

Ryan Benitez
CEO , Meto

Hon. Lawson is the Minister of Digital Economy and Postal Affairs in Togo, a position she has held since 2013. In January 2019, Cina Lawson received the award for Most Innovative Person of the year at the Napoléons, the innovative communications network for leading players in business, media and culture. In 2016, she was featured in the top 55 African Doers by Tropics magazine, among other actors which contribute to the continent's dynamism. In May 2013, the news outlet Jeune Afrique ranked her as one of the 25 most influential women for business in Africa. In March 2012, she was named "young global leader" by the World Economic Forum in Davos. She was also featured in Forbes's top 20 "Youngest power women in Africa" twice, in 2012 and in 2014